

AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWING(S)

Fig. 1 has been amended. The attached sheet of formal drawing replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant appreciates the consideration given to this application by Examiner Brinson and the telephone discussion with the undersigned concerning the disclosure and particularly amending Fig. 1 consistent with the specification and the other Figures. Accordingly, amended Fig. 1 is attached in a Replacement Sheet wherein the channels 15 in the hoop layer 13 in Fig. 1 are shown. The specification has been amended, not to add new matter, but to describe Fig. 1 as related to Fig. 3 or other drawings. Hence, the claimed channels are shown.

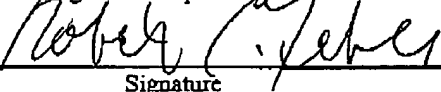
Applicant appreciates the Examiner calling to Applicant's attention the previous International Publication WO 2004/040183. Because Applicant's French priority date is March 21, 2003 and because International Publication No. WO 2004/040183 was not published until May 13, 2004, and because the French patent application which was the basis of the International Publication was not published until April 30, 2004 and because the French application and the International publication were not confirmed by a regular U.S. application or a U.S. national phase application, Applicant's priority date back to its own French patent application predates the publication of the French and International publications by more than one year and they are not prior art. In addition, as the Examiner has noted, it appears that the claimed direction of extension of the gas drain channels disclosed and claimed in the present application is different than in the International Publication so that the present application claims a different structure that functions in a different way.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by Facsimile to (571) 273-8300 addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert C. Faber

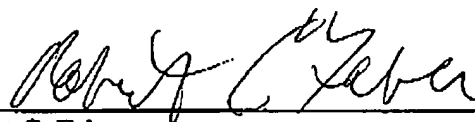
Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative



Signature

July 14, 2006

Date of Signature



Robert C. Faber

Registration No.: 24,322

OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP

1180 Avenue of the Americas

New York, New York 10036-8403

Telephone: (212) 382-0700

RCF:mjb